



Date: June 14, 2007

Location: Polson, Wheat MT

Time: 12:00-1:30

Presentation: Shane Roberts, The St. Luke Hospital Expansion: The impact on the economic health of the region

Questions, Answers and discussion were held following the presentation. Completion of the new expansion may take 22 to 24 months.

Introduction of members

Members Present:

Theresa Jones, St. Luke Hospital; Denise Simke, HR Assistant, St. Luke Hospital; Patti Patterson, Job Service; Todd Erickson, Job Service; David Sande, Jr, Evergreen; Mike Shoquist, Job Service; Mary Lou Shoquist, DPHHS, Quality Assurance, Marilyn Becker, Office of Public Assistance; Karen Dellwo, First Interstate Bank; Debra Krantz, Job Service; Wayne Fuchs, St. Luke Hospital, Pat Hulla, Job Service.

Members Absent/Excused: Mike McReynolds, UPS Store; Paula Weaver, DRS TSI, Inc; Adina Fox, Ronan Telephone; Michelle Cope, Polson Chamber; Rick Molenda, Western Bee; Emily Peck, Polson High School; Nikki Montesano, Jore; Jim Hinshaw, Country Foods; Audi Moran, S&K Technologies; Lettie Neuman, Kicking Horse Job Corps; Donna Mitchell, Kicking Horse Job Corps; Tina Oliphant, Lake County Community Development.

Treasurer Report: \$1,393.65

Patti asked if she could spend money on supplies for the upcoming ABC Clinic that will be held in October. The committee is working on marketing, and may need to purchase stamps, and folders. The motion was made that she be allowed to purchase supplies for the Clinic. Motion was approved.

Approval of June minutes: Minutes approved as written.

Old business:

- Theodore Morigeau was the State JSEC winner of the \$500 Fred Unmack Memorial Scholarship.
- Thank you cards were read from Theodore Morigeau, Stevie-Leigh Sammons and Blanch Rohrenbach.

New business:

- Todd went over the minimum wage increase at the federal level. The US Congress approved the minimum wage increase to \$7.25 per hour over a two year period. Under the bill the wage will increase from its current level of \$5.15 per hour to \$5.85 per hour within 60 days of enactment and to \$7.25 within two years. Since MT minimum wage is currently higher than the Federal wage at \$6.15, then our current higher minimum wage prevails. Keep in mind that MT minimum wage is tied to a cost-of-living adjustment to be calculated from August of the preceding year to August of the year in which the calculation is made. If there is no Consumer Price Index increase, then no adjustment is made. Adjustments will become effective January 1, 2008. Please refer to the following website for posting information: <http://erd.dli.mt.gov/laborstandard/wagehrlawsstatemin.asp>
- The Career Committee met and discussed the possibility of partnering with Salish Kootenai College for the spring of 2008 Job Fair. Todd met with the committee at the college. The college is very interested in partnering. They also were impressed with the program that JSEC offers to the high school students on soft skills and preparing them for future employment.
- State JSEC update: Karen Dellwo was elected as V.P. to the MSEC committee. This leaves the Western MT Regional Representative position open. It is not known at this time when nominations need to be made, the representative needs to be from our region. General comment from those that attended was very good. The presentations were all excellent and very beneficial to all employers that attended. Theresa Jones was the grand prize winner of the weeklong stay at Montana Memories near Bozeman. Other winners from our region include:
 - **Outstanding Local JSEC Chair**, Kris Carlson, Flathead JSEC;
 - **Outstanding Local JSEC Coordinator**, Mora McCarthy, Flathead JSEC
 - **Fred Unmack Scholarship**, Theodore “Ted” Morigeau, Polson



Some of those attending the JSEC Conference in Bozeman in May. Back row: Karen Dellwo, Marilyn Becker, Johnette Watkins, Chris Carlson, Mora McCarthy, Pat Hulla. Front row: Todd Erickson, Kari Martell, Mike Shoquist, Debra Krantz.

Marilyn Becker presented Manager Mike Shoquist with an engraved gold watch from the JSEC Committee. Mike is retiring June 29, 2007. Todd read the letter that was submitted for the Outstanding Local Job Service Workforce Center Management Person. Mike gave his final speech and thanked everyone for the gift and all the time each individual puts into the JSEC Committee.

Pat Hulla is now the Regional Manager for the Northwest area. There are now only 5 regional managers statewide. Her start date is July 1st. Each office will have a Supervisor or Manager person. The idea of the reorganization is to align the state with the federal guidelines for grants, economic development, etc. The Dept. of Commerce has already set this structure in place regionally.

Pat discussed the upcoming changes for the Workforce Division. She stressed how we will be relying on our JSEC partners.

Next meeting September 13, 2007, Wheat Montana in Polson 12:00

Have a great summer!